

# 5-Paragraph Reflection Essay

**Directions:** *On a separate paper, type or handwrite a 5-paragraph essay set-up in the following manner:*

- Select a nationally-placed entry in each of the 5 categories, which are paper, exhibit, website, performance, and documentary
- You can find them here --- <http://nhd.org/contest-affiliates/examples/>
  - **Note: This website has been updated from the website in the packet!**
- Write a paragraph reflection on each, which includes the following:
  - Title
  - Category (Individual paper, group website, individual exhibit, etc.)
  - Place (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc.)
  - Your critique (what you like about the entry, what you wondered about the project, and any ways to improve it (if possible))
  - You cannot choose from the 2012 national contest examples
- Each paragraph should be a minimum of 5 sentences
- The paper should be MLA formatted (heading, title, 2x spaced, etc.)

Sample essay is below:

Student Name  
School Name  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. History  
Date Month Year

### "5-Paragraph Reflection"

For the **paper** category, I reviewed the individual essay "The Trial of the Century: Reaction to Nazi Atrocities." This paper, written by Natalie Pilgeram in the senior division, took second place in the 2012 national contest. One thing I noticed immediately was the length of the essay (it was 29 pages with the bibliography). I also noted that she had approximately 3-7 footnotes at the end of each page. She also had an epic amount of primary sources (more than 40). I really liked the introduction (saying it was the "second most important trial after Jesus Christ"), and I also liked the historical background it provided. I wondered if it wasn't long enough to win (the winner had 62 pages that year!).

For the **exhibit** category, I reviewed the individual exhibit "The Meiji Restoration: A Political Revolution." This exhibit, created by Grace Gardner, took first place in the junior division. One thing I noticed right away was how neat it was that the exhibit spun around. I also really liked the amount of pictures and items embedded in the exhibit. I wondered how long it took her to create this, and how much help she had from her parents. I also want to know how many primary source quotes she has on the exhibit.

For the **documentary** category, I reviewed "Counting the Dead." This individual documentary took first place in the junior division. I really liked how the pictures "moved" during the documentary. The fact that she also added a historical expert made it seem so real. It also had some great subtitles. I wondered how she found

out about this topic. I'm also curious to learn she made some of the graphs back to life.

For the **performance** category, I reviewed "From Revolution to Constitution: Shay's Rebellion." Chad Nowlan's individual performance took second place in the senior division. I enjoyed his acting ability. He had great hand motions and changed his tone of voice often. He also was able to narrate from behind the curtain while he changed, which is very impressive. It was great to watch him play so many characters in such a short amount of time and have so many props with it. I wondered why he chose to do this as an individual performance and how he played music while changing sometimes. I also wonder what the judges said made his second-best and not best.

For the **website** category, I chose to examine "Title IX: Empowerment Through Education." This group website placed first in the junior division. What I noticed from the start is everything was neatly organized. I also liked how there was an option to click to go to the next section at the bottom of the page. There seemed to be media on each portion of the page (either music or videos), so I wondered how that didn't distract from their content. The sheer amount of subpages and photos that they have and used was truly amazing. I wondered how they were able to unearth so much of it!